

Answer Key

Hundreds of years ago, in a land far away, an old man named Alexander rescued helpless children. Alexander had a very kind heart. (Or, **He**, Day) didn't want the children to go (children, milking, **without**) food, clothing, or shelter. Alexander often (drove, clean, their) his mule-drawn wagon around the (busy, find, **town**) searching for homeless children to help.

(Old, **On**, Ago) this particular day, Alexander drove his (said, homes, **wagon**) through a very poor village. He (**saw**, can, all) a little boy and a little (with, **girl**, clean) sitting in an alley. Their clothes (down, help, **were**) torn, and the children were very (boys, **dirty**, barn). They sat close together and cried.

"(Far, New, **Why**) are you crying?" asked Alexander from (**atop**, young, work) his wagon.

"Our mother and father (help, busy, **have**) died. We have no family and (dishes, **nothing**, rescued) to eat," said the little girl.

"(In, Of, **We**) are hungry," said the little boy. "(Old, **Can**, And) you help us, Sir?"

Alexander told (**the**, find, go) little boy and girl to climb (how, very, **into**) his wagon. Alexander took the little (sat, **boy**, this) and girl to his farm in (had, poor, **the**) country. At the farm, they saw (often, **dozens**, happy) of other children busy at work. (More, An, **Out**) in the field, young boys were (**cutting**, through, helpful) down hay. In the barn, young (wagon, **girls**, with) were milking cows.

"All of these (hundreds, homeless, **children**) have lost their parents," Alexander told (help, **the**, were) little boy and girl. "We all (food, drawn, **work**) together so we can eat and (alley, **keep**, fell) the farmhouse clean. I find good (**homes**, sleep, heavy) with loving mothers and fathers for (**most**, down, when) of the boys and girls. I (long, **will**, with) find a good home for you (came, book, **too**). But until we find a good (then, why, **home**) for you, I must teach you (and, **how**, had) to work so you can help (**us**, not, are) keep ourselves fed."

The boy and (told, from, **girl**) were more than happy to work. (Rose, **The**, Sat) little boy ran out into the (shelter, **fields**, library) to work with the other boys. (Not, Find, **The**) boys were kind and helpful. They (**taught**, stormy, report) the little boy how to use (me, **a**, by) pitchfork. The girl offered to help (don't, book, **with**) the cooking and the dishes. The (turned, **little**, their) boy and girl were very happy (of, so, **in**) their new home.

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Answer Key

Beatrice hated books. Books were dusty and musty and (**filled**, heard, louder) with long, tangled sentences that made (and, **no**, in) sense—at least not to Beatrice. (Shelf, Voice, **Books**) were heavy and clumsy and so (pages, report, **boring**) that whenever Beatrice sat herself down (few, **and**, who) forced herself to read, she fell (heard, moldy, **right**) to sleep.

One stormy evening, Beatrice (with, **was**, from) sitting in the library doing nothing (**when**, side, floor) her mother looked in on her.

"(Tangled, **Beatrice**, Chuckle), darling," she said, "why don't you (came, bless, **read**) a book?"

"All the books in (tried, went, **here**) are boring," she told her mother.

"(Close, **They**, Show) are not," her mother shouted. "You (voice, who, **will**) read a book, and you will (**give**, head, heavy) me a full report in the (dinner, snuggled, **morning**)." Then she stormed out of the (tail, **room**, cross).

Beatrice was so angry she kicked (all, for, **the**) wall and screamed twice. She screamed (his, fact, **the**) first time because she'd stubbed her (you, stay, **toe**) and the second time because a (sight, **book**, few) had become dislodged from the shelf (block, **above**, howl) and fallen on her head.

The (**book**, songs, lose) fell open on the floor at (step, ago, **her**) feet. A few stray wisps of (elevators, **sparkling**, tenderest) dust rose from its moldy pages, (chocolate, potatoes, **tickling**) Beatrice's nose and causing her to (**sneeze**, vanilla, further).

"Bless you."

The voice came from (dog, all, **the**) shadows all around Beatrice. She heard (to, **a**, or) faint chuckle as she narrowed her (you're, fact, **eyes**) and looked from side to side. (As, **No**, In) one was there. Beatrice knew she (**was**, bone, let) alone with the book, so who (clown, that, **had**) spoken to her?

"I did, you (told, move, **fool**)."

The voice came again, louder this (only, **time**, when), and Beatrice finally looked down at (but, too, **her**) feet realizing that it was the (kind, **book**, fish) that spoke. Beatrice tried to close (now, into, **the**) cover of the book with her (got, **toe**, cold).

"That won't work," said the book, (**now**, what, boy) ruffling its pages because it was (**upset**, spoke, notice). "I don't like to be kicked. (Feels, Since, **Books**) should be treated with respect. Let (too, was, **me**) show you something."

The book ruffled (day, see, **its**) pages once more, and a strong (food, **wind**, know) blew as the pages turned. Finally, (for, don't, **the**) book stopped on a page with (it, **a**, by) picture of a trapdoor. The handle (**of**, but, he) the trapdoor gleamed.

"Go ahead," said (this, **the**, just) book. "Pull it open. A world (it, one, **of**) adventure awaits you, young Beatrice."

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Answer Key

Crystal's next door neighbor was a very large and strange man. He was well over six feet (last, hole, **tall**) with feet the size of tennis (ringing, **rackets**, followed). Sometimes while riding the bus to (**school**, build, weather), Crystal saw him at the dump (exactly, gorgeous, **digging**) through piles of garbage. Sometimes while (outing, **riding**, along) the bus home from school, she (just, year, **saw**) him walking down the sidewalk lugging (**a**, I, be) heavy burlap sack over his shoulder. (Whales, Anything, **Crystal**) never knew what was in the (that, **sack**, true). She could only guess as she (outside, shouted, **watched**) him open his front door and (woman, facts, **close**) it behind him. Her older brother, (Rope, **Jason**, Piles), had an idea.

"Maybe the guy (**next**, kids, hear) door is so poor," he told (destined, highly, **Crystal**) one afternoon, "he has to go (my, **to**, as) the dump to scavenge for food. (**I**, To, Us) bet he collects old boots and (days, **makes**, laugh) boot-leather soup." Crystal wrinkled her (made, loop, **nose**). She didn't like the sound of (thin, **that**, tell).

"Do you think I should bring (real, knot, **him**) some food?" she asked. "I could (heavy, **bring**, great) him some of the leftover cinnamon (final, cool, **rolls**) Mom made last weekend." Jason was (**too**, need, all) busy laughing to answer. Crystal ignored (part, **her**, high) big brother. She knew he could (you, for, **be**) rude and mean sometimes.

The next (decision, evaporate, **morning**) before school, Crystal walked across the (disk, **yard**, crane) and knocked on her neighbor's front (**door**, drop, pill). She knocked several times, but no (even, soon, **one**) answered. Crystal left the tray of (splashes, **cinnamon**, brighten) rolls covered with tinfoil on his (night, each, **steps**) and ran to catch the bus. (Best, **She**, Gave) didn't see the curtains twitch as (have, done, **she**) turned to leave, but she did (**see**, lost, pack) piles of rusty old pipes stacked (to, no, **in**) the backyard.

All day as Crystal (how, **sat**, she) in class, she wondered what her (popcorn, **neighbor**, weekend) used those pipes for. When she (off, dad, **got**) home, she found a clean plate (team, **and**, grow) a folded piece of tinfoil on (most, kept, **her**) front steps. She ran across her (**yard**, would, going) to her neighbor's door.

Before she (story, **could**, after) knock, the door opened. Her neighbor (kennel, owners, **stood**) in the doorway towering over her. (**Crystal**, Returned, Familiar) would have been scared to death (she, **had**, gone) there not been a kind smile (tag, see, **on**) his face and a sincere look (new, toy, **in**) his eyes. He didn't say a (asked, **word**, enjoy). Instead he handed her a beautiful (want, kind, **set**) of silver wind chimes.

"How lovely," (**she**, left, next) said. "Thank you very much." Crystal (last, **now**, come) understood what her neighbor did with (will, you, **his**) burlap sack and his backyard full (to, **of**, one) pipes.

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Answer Key

One of the reasons Becky loved traveling on the weekends to her grandparents' house in Connecticut was her Grandpa Bob. As soon as she and her (one, **parents**, evening) pulled into the winding drive and (Becky, **stopped**, grow) in front of her grandparents' house, (in, city, **she**) and Grandpa Bob would go for (a, pelt, weekends) walk.

Becky lived in New York (reasons, **City**, going) in an apartment she shared with (**her**, a, the) parents and a golden retriever named (her, **Ralph**, eyes). She and Ralph walked in the (**city**, golden, leaned), and she saw lots of interesting (grandparents, **things**, would). They saw yellow taxicabs, men in (her, **suits**, shoulder), and women in high heels. But (she, **never**, and) in New York did she see (city, **the**, in) fantastic things she saw with Grandpa (loved, up, **Bob**) on their walks.

Grandpa Bob knew (into, of, **just**) about everything there was to know (front, and, **about**) the forest and the animals that (game, **lived**, walk) there. Once, when she and Grandpa (**Bob**, pipe, her) were walking, a blue bird landed (dozing, **on**, wished) his shoulder. When it flew away, (retriever, **Becky**, her) remembered her grandpa had looked down (where, I, **at**) her and winked.

"It was just (secrets, of, **telling**) me some secrets, that's all, Becky," (out, **he**, pulled) had told her. "That bird just (close, **told**, was) me there would be a frost (house, named, **tonight**) and that there is a herd (a, in, **of**) deer nibbling on grass just beyond (critters, new, **those**) maple trees."

Becky followed with her (bird, **eyes**, and) where her grandpa was pointing and (Bob, with, **saw**) a pelt of brown fur and (**the**, that, was) long legs and the velvet nose (walked, whispered, **that**) did indeed belong to a white-(**tailed**, pointing, and) deer.

She couldn't believe a blue (soon, **bird**, mouth) was smart enough to tell her (**grandpa**, those, playing) all that. At the same time, (his, and, **she**) wished one of those critters would (the, **land**, like) on her shoulder and sing secrets (the, **to**, when) her.

Later that evening, when Grandpa (off, her, **Bob**) was dozing in front of the (apartment, grandparents, **fire**) with his pipe hanging out of (**his**, interesting, brown) mouth and Becky and her mom (of, **and**, to) dad were playing a game of (traveling, **cards**, her) with Grandma, Becky leaned in close (as, **to**, saw) her mom and whispered in her (lived, was, **ear**).

"When I grow up Mom, I (**think**, followed, with) I'm going to be like Grandpa Bob."

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Answer Key

Fall is my favorite season. I love to watch the leaves (**change**, behind, could) color and flutter to the ground (by, as, **on**) cool, crisp fall days. All of (she, **my**, lit) fondest memories seem to involve fall.

(Who, **One**, And) of my favorite memories happened around (of, us, **a**) campfire last October. My cousins from (**Nebraska**, destroy, surprised) had come to visit us, and (in, to, **we**) spent the afternoon gathering firewood and (computer, **preparing**, controlled) the area for a campfire. After (rocket, **dinner**, spread), everyone walked down the path to (love, **the**, high) beachfront where we had set up (**a**, I, on) pile of logs for the fire. (By, Is, **It**) was almost dark, and we could (wanted, **barely**, trouble) see each other's faces.

"Isn't someone (speed, **going**, remote) to light the fire?" asked my (**Uncle**, game, around) Milton.

"Be patient. The children have (or, to, **a**) plan," said my mother.

My cousin (waste, **Sarah**, from) had climbed a nearby oak tree (said, over, **and**) was hidden from view. When everyone (him, **was**, fall) quiet, she lit a match. Suddenly, (he, **a**, in) ball of fire came shooting down (**on**, all, had) a thin wire and onto the (area, have, **pile**) of logs. The crumpled newspaper caught (when, **fire**, hope) and within seconds, flames rose high (like, them, **into**) the air.

Uncle Milton let out (if, or, **a**) high-pitched shriek and took a (**step**, send, here) backwards. As he stepped back, he (everyone, distance, **stumbled**) over something behind him, lost his (planets, **footing**, rocket), and landed with a splash in (by, **a**, to) bucket of water.

My cousins and (or, **I**, we) took one look at Uncle Milton (was, for, **and**) began to laugh. One by one, (cool, **the**, last) adults began laughing until Uncle Milton (flew, **was**, ago) the only one who wasn't laughing. (**Then**, Only, Mind), a smile slowly spread across his (tea, run, **face**), and soon he was laughing harder (look, **than**, float) any of us.

"May I ask (ginger, bring, **where**) that bucket of water came from?" (our, **he**, of) said when the laughter had died (wants, all, **down**).

"I filled it and brought it (class, door, **here**) this afternoon in case the fire (sun, **got**, soon) away from us," said my cousin (space, care, **Chip**). "You should have expected us to (see, said, **use**) that kind of caution, Dad. You're (be, **a**, at) firefighter, remember?" he asked. Uncle Milton (**was**, last, my) the fire chief in his hometown.

"(Tips, Often, **Well**), aren't you just a chip off (thin, **the**, with) old block," said my uncle, and (memories, **everyone**, stopped) started laughing all over again.

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Answer Key

Every day after school all the kids flocked to Jim's house to play computer games. They knew that Jim was the (**best**, cold, few) player in the school, maybe even (to, **in**, as) town. Nobody could beat Jim at (off, away, **any**) computer game, but they always tried.

(Was, **One**, Few) afternoon Jim was playing Space Ace (only, made, **with**) his friends. He played very well (**that**, bare, scene) day and reached a championship level (in, a, **of**) performance. His score was higher than (crudely, **anyone**, window) in history. He took a picture (was, far, **of**) the screen and mailed it into (him, **the**, was) company that created the game.

Two (**months**, gloomy, eager) later, while Jim and his friends (thus, work, **were**) playing games, the doorbell rang. Jim's (three, **mother**, house) answered the door, and there stood (that, even, **two**) men in uniforms. They were from (smile, **NASA**, paint), and they wanted to speak to (soon, ask, **Jim**). "Jimmy, come here," said his mother. (Was, **Jim**, Day) stopped playing and ran to the (root, **door**, thus). He was surprised to see men (feet, beats, **from**) NASA standing there.

The men explained (by, or, **to**) Jim that they had seen the (**picture**, vibrant, shabby) of his high score in Space (sand, day, **Ace**) and wanted to know if he (bleak, lifted, **would**) help them. There had been an (shoulders, **accident**, entirely) in space, and some astronauts were (**in**, of, by) trouble. The only hope of reaching (**them**, stood, place) was to send a remote controlled (chance, number, **rocket**) into space. There was no time (at, **to**, by) test the remote controlled rocket. NASA (without, **needed**, kitchen) Jim to fly the rocket for (again, job, **them**) right away.

Jim was more surprised (far, soon, **than**) before. "Yes! I'll help if I (was, **can**, the)," said Jim. Jim and his mother (slide, **flew**, left) to NASA in Florida. There was (**no**, as, or) time to waste. Jim sat in (up, and, **the**) pilot seat. The rocket took off. (Into, **Jim**, Her) controlled the rocket's flight through space. (By, Me, **It**) was just like the computer game! (As, Set, **He**) flew the rocket around planets and (gave, moons, number). He saw many small asteroids ahead (**of**, at, ace) him. He fired the guns to (marched, climbs, **destroy**) space rocks and flew quickly to (since, **reach**, friend) the space station. Finally, Jim saw (more, be, **the**) space station in the distance and (flew, with, high) at super speed. He docked perfectly (from, about, **with**) the space station. Jim had saved (by, over, **the**) astronauts, and NASA was very thankful. (Day, Soon, **Jim's**) picture was in newspapers around the (**world**, next, paper).

Every day after school all the kids flocked to Jim's house to play computer games. They knew that Jim was the **(best, cold, few)** player in the school, maybe even **(to, in, as)** town. Nobody could beat Jim at **(off, away, any)** computer game, but they always tried.

(Was, One, Few) afternoon Jim was playing Space Ace **(only, made, with)** his friends. He played very well **(that, bare, scene)** day and reached a championship level **(in, a, of)** performance. His score was higher than **(crudely, anyone, window)** in history. He took a picture **(was, far, of)** the screen and mailed it into **(him, the, was)** company that created the game.

Two **(months, gloomy, eager)** later, while Jim and his friends **(thus, work, were)** playing games, the doorbell rang. Jim's **(three, mother, house)** answered the door, and there stood **(that, even, two)** men in uniforms. They were from **(smile, NASA, paint)**, and they wanted to speak to **(soon, ask, Jim)**. "Jimmy, come here," said his mother. **(Was, Jim, Day)** stopped playing and ran to the **(root, door, thus)**. He was surprised to see men **(feet, beats, from)** NASA standing there.

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Answer Key

I must be the only ten-year-old kid in the universe who has a time-travel machine. I began to use it just (curiously, equipment, **yesterday**). My time-travel machine has a (sure, **wide**, rear) variety of buttons. Yesterday I got (**in**, of, our), closed my eyes, and pressed one (as, it, **of**) the buttons. When I opened my (way, **eyes**, thick) and looked out, I found myself (as, my, **in**) Ancient Egypt! I peered out the (stretch, **window**, excited) and saw warriors running towards me. (**They**, Spun, Ship) looked angry, so I pressed a (beach, woman, **button**) that said "The Future" and quickly (surprise, **arrived**, several) back at my house.

I decided (met, this, **the**) time-travel machine was way cool (than, by, **and**) called my best friends, Jeff and (mother, **Justin**, travel). I didn't tell them about the (wide, **time**, knew)-travel machine over the phone because (I, at, so) knew they wouldn't believe me. They (around, looking, **always**) questioned the things I told them.

(By, **A**, So) few minutes later, I looked out (as, in, **my**) bedroom window. Sure enough, Jeff and (knights, future, **Justin**) were walking up the driveway. "Hey," (a, if, **I**) said. "You guys have to see (go, **the**, say) time machine I found."

"You know (**we're**, fact, eyes) too old for make-believe," Justin (this, **said**, were) as he folded his arms.

"No, (up, end, **I'm**) serious," I insisted, leading them to (**my**, far, let) machine. With their eyes wide open, (rope, out, **they**) stood in complete silence. After a (**lot**, pair, boat) of questions, they convinced me they (soon, spun, **were**) ready to try it out. We (pajamas, feature, **crammed**) into the machine, and I randomly (stories, **pressed**, medium) one of the buttons. Suddenly we (**found**, paper, studio) ourselves in medieval England. Jeff and (crunch, places, **Justin**) were totally amazed. They couldn't believe (chance, **their**, later) eyes! Just as we were about (**to**, an, by) step out, we noticed several knights (at, he, **in**) shining armor approaching. I decided not (of, **to**, far) chance it. I hit the future (corner, caught, **button**), and we ended up safe and (brave, **sound**, builds) back in my home.

Jeff and (start, afraid, **Justin**) made me promise to take them (**on**, by, at) another adventure very soon. Hopefully, next (went, pair, **time**) we will be able to stay (slipper, **longer**, boring) and explore more of the past.

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Answer Key

I wasn't very excited as my mother and I pulled into a parking lot filled with pot holes in front of a weather-beaten building. Through my smudged glasses, the building (dangerous, telephone, **appeared**) very dull. Behind the building, I (shadow, comes, **could**) see the ocean tossing and I (**wished**, imagine, dreams) my surprise was an ocean outing. (Do, Go, **I'd**) rather stroll along the seashore any (out, look, **day**), than do whatever my mom planned (be, **to**, an) do in that dreary building. But (**before**, window, laugh) I could turn to complain to (up, as, **my**) mother, she'd already climbed out of (for, **the**, we'll) car.

"Great," I said, slamming the (off, try, **car**) door and taking my time as (or, **I**, to) followed her.

The building was about (by, we, **as**) spectacular on the inside as it (sun, **was**, all) on the outside. There was a (tempt, laugh, **dummy**) desk stacked with papers, a telephone (highly, **ringing**, accept) off the hook, and a row (**of**, up, by) empty chairs. I didn't see anything (talk, into, **more**) interesting than a thick oak door (room, **and**, held) some dusty sailing equipment. There were (**piles**, dining, more) of rope and rigging everywhere. Suddenly (the, or, **my**) mother was nowhere in sight. I (rolled, **couldn't**, around) imagine what kind of surprise this (teatime, tomorrow, **deserted**) office could produce. "I can see (**this**, more, empty) is going to be an exciting (need, **day**, tell)," I muttered to myself.

"Are you (what's, **Jesse**, never)?" asked a voice. A young woman (**stood**, trays, table) on the far end of the (parrot, corner, **office**). "Your mother asked me to make (door, into, **sure**) you could find your way. Everyone (at, **is**, or) already outside." Curiously, I followed the (front, silver, **woman**) across the threadbare carpet to the (**rear**, from, grip) of the building.

The woman yanked (bit, her, **the**) door open, and we stepped out, (pointed, **blinking**, monkey) in the sunshine. Before me was (was, on, **the**) smell of the sea, a stretch (he, **of**, by) beach, and a gorgeous ship bobbing (you, or, **on**) the waves. My mom was already (be, **on**, why) board.

"What exactly was going on (**here**, when, told)?" I wondered to myself.

My mother (they, next, **must**) have felt me watching her, because (yard, **she**, dead) spun around and started waving her (big, open, **arms**) at me. She was beckoning me (dark, **down**, her) the dangerous-looking dock toward the (**impressive**, chocolate, surrounded) ship.

"Surprise, Jesse!" she shouted. "Do (tell, you, many) want to go whale watching with (do, tea, **me**)? Captain Jones tells me that a (laid, were, **pod**) of Humpback whales was just spotted (rolled, **feeding**, pointed) outside the bay. Hurry up, lazybones!"

(To, Be, I) couldn't think of anything sarcastic to (you, **say**, was) to that. In fact, I was (or, **so**, her) excited that I skipped down the (their, could, **beach**) toward the boat. I guess my (like, near, **mom**) knew how to surprise me after (**all**, out, make).

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Answer Key

I was terrified. When my mom climbed out of (**the**, pulls, to) car and started walking toward the (when, **dentist's**, pure) office, I stayed where I was, (over, **shivering**, at) in the front passenger seat of (**our**, I, mom) car. Then, on a stroke of (**pure**, the, and) genius, I hit the button on the (**side**, wait, steps) control panel that locked all the (braces, and, **doors**) on the vehicle at once. I (**wasn't**, bodily, her) going in there. I didn't care (walking, **if**, her) I had crooked teeth for the (genius, until, **rest**) of my life. Do you know (**what**, walk, life) they do to you in dentist (**offices**, car, toward)?

I found out last night while (and, **talking**, your) on the telephone with my best (**friend**, out, was) Marcy, who got braces last year. (That, Teeth, **She**) told me that first they strap (**you**, office, as) down in the chair, and then (smiles, **they**, once) whip out the drills they've been (**hiding**, age, stayed) behind their backs. They have to (**screw**, wanted, for) on each brace, and they only (on, **give**, tilted) you the tiniest bit of painkillers. (Me, **Then**, On) they get out the metal wires (of, a, **and**) tighten and pull to their hearts' (**content**, stretching, lucky).

Marcy also told me her dentist, (the, a, **Dr.**) Pane, pulled so hard all of (**her**, there, panel) teeth fell out. She told me (the, **it**, up) had taken Dr. Pane five hours (have, couldn't, **to**) glue her teeth back in place. (You, I, Couldn't) think Marcy may be stretching the (didn't, **truth**, have) a little, but I know some (**of**, in, strapped) what lies ahead of me will, (**no**, son, my) doubt, cause me great bodily harm.

(**My**, Started, Them) mom raps sharply on the window.

"(Our, **Let's**, Found) go, Gloria," she says.

I get (care, **out**, open) of the car because she has (then, **the**, was) keys in her purse anyway, and (in, I, front) don't want to look like an (**idiot**, with, seat) because my mother had to carry (**me**, pinch, seat) over her shoulder kicking and screaming (with, in, **to**) get my braces put on.

"You (with, **know**, seat) you're very lucky," my mom tells (in, pinch, **me**) as we walk up the sidewalk. "(On, I, Do) wanted braces when I was your (**age**, stroke, lies), but I couldn't have them."

I (climbed, **don't**, teeth) say anything.

My mom pulls open (**the**, woman, of) door and then steps aside letting (know, where, **another**) woman and her son walk out. (Do, Pain, **The**) boy smiles at me. His teeth (hit, aside, **are**) strapped with metal. I pinch my (**lips**, his, dentist) over my tilted teeth, blushing. I (you, **can't**, get) wait until I get my braces (**on**, strap, letting).

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Answer Key

It was a cold and dreary day. A few leaves clung desperately to (you, for, **the**) branches of the solitary trees, but (then, from, **most**) of the leaves had been ripped (his, **off**, want) as the wind gusted through. It (**was**, had, she) only the middle of October, but (honest, before, **already**) the wind was bitterly cold. Even (why, **the**, now) trees seemed to shiver.

One house (these, home, **stood**) alone, surrounded by barren fields. It (**seemed**, school, speak) lonely and vulnerable. There were patches (be, as, **on**) the roof where the shingles had (along, **come**, want) off and most of the paint (him, dark, **was**) chipping away. The house looked shabby (why, **and**, wild) neglected.

The inside of the house (**was**, how, with) no cheerier. Its three rooms were (smiled, **starkly**, cottage) furnished, and the floor was bare (staring, elbow, **except**) for a few ragged-looking rugs. (Had, **The**, So) only point of interest in the (**living**, family, blushed) room was the large, crudely made (usual, above, **easel**) that sat near the eastern window.

(By, **A**, Or) slender, aging man stood before the (lonely, shook, **easel**) in bedraggled clothes and bare feet. (But, **He**, My) was painting a beach on the (finger, movie, **canvas**) before him. It was a lovely (know, **scene**, floor) depicting sand, water, and the vibrant (water, cruel, **colors**) of a sunset.

The man was (**pleased**, because, bubbles) with his work thus far. He (**had**, now, see) awakened to the gloomy day, and (not, **his**, talk) mood was as bleak as the (ignored, **weather**, watched) outside. Breakfast had been a hurried (since, monster, **affair**) because he was eager to get (**to**, it, for) work and dispel the aching sadness (as, boy, **in**) his heart.

As soon as the (bowl, **man**, one) began to splash color on the (**canvas**, speak, didn't), his despair started to evaporate. He (cold, found, **began**) to drift away, his concentration entirely (as, far, **on**) the emerging picture before him. His (frantically, **loneliness**, happening) and hopelessness left him, like a (become, speech, **heavy**) shawl lifted from his shoulders. It (she, **was**, time) as if he were a part (**of**, how, at) the scene before him, his memory (that, more, **and**) rendition of it more real than (did, **his**, all) dismal surroundings.

Then the man added (her, **the**, eye) final element to the painting. It (**was**, how, of) a woman, lovely and graceful. She (time, **was**, try) approaching the painter, her arm lifted (up, at, **in**) salutation and a radiant smile on (out, lose, **her**) face.

As the man completed the (really, **final**, know) touches of the painting he felt (cruel, house, **great**) joy. Painting could brighten even his (couldn't, **darkest**, found) days.

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Answer Key

Late one afternoon, Patrick O'Connor was walking home from school when a strange thing happened. His usual route home took him (talking, **through**, weekend) a dark tunnel and high along (than, table, **some**) cliffs near an ocean. He saw (stories, excited, **nothing**) in the tunnel that amazed him. (**He**, Saw, How) didn't see anything strange as he (three, **walked**, popcorn) along the cliffs above the wild (black, teach, **waters**). But just as he turned down (**the**, more, new) lane that led to his grandmother's (grabbed, **cottage**, harder), a strange sight caught his eye.

(By, So, **It**) was a fairy sitting cool as (a, or, to) cucumber on a corner fencepost. Patrick (heavier, houses, **stopped**), closed his eyes, rubbed them, and (rang, **then**, great) opened them again. The fairy was (**still**, before, rule) sitting on the fencepost, and now (able, hear, **she**) was staring at him. The tiny, (pretended, difference, **shimmering**) woman was the most beautiful creature (grandma, **Patrick**, thought) had ever seen. She had long, (little, heavy, **glossy**) hair and wings like a butterfly.

"(I've, Like, Saw) been waiting for you all afternoon, (**Patrick**, because, called) O'Connor," she said. "What took you (me, **so**, sit) long to walk home from school?"

"(In, So, I) didn't know anyone was waiting for (old, **me**, ran), so I had no reason to (nearly, years, **hurry**)," Patrick stammered.

"That's an honest answer," (into, **she**, lab) told Patrick. Then she stood up (**and**, six, tell) flapped her pretty wings. Before Patrick (listened, running, **realized**) what was happening, she'd already landed (now, **on**, my) his shoulder and propped her elbow (**on**, as, to) his ear.

"Patrick O'Connor," she whispered. "(How, Who, **Did**) you know your grandmother was friends (pick, **with**, call) the fairies in these parts?"

"No, (as, so, I) did not know that," Patrick replied. "(Made, **What**, More) do you want with me?"

"Well, (were, see, **now**) that you and your family live (two, **in**, who) your grandmother's house, the fairies want to be your friends as well. I (**was**, all, over) the one chosen to speak with (of, **you**, the). Has anyone ever told you that (the, into, **you**) have your grandmother's eyes?" Patrick blushed (us, into, **and**) shoved his hands in his pockets (up, **as**, for) the fairy smiled kindly at him.

"(By, I, At) must go now, but we will (**speak**, happy, labs) again very soon," the fairy said (new, how, **as**) she blew him a kiss and (situations, **disappeared**, impulsively).

Late one afternoon, Patrick O'Connor was walking home from school when a strange thing happened. His usual route home took him **(talking, through, weekend)** a dark tunnel and high along **(than, table, some)** cliffs near an ocean. He saw **(stories, excited, nothing)** in the tunnel that amazed him. **(He, Saw, How)** didn't see anything strange as he **(three, walked, popcorn)** along the cliffs above the wild **(black, teach, waters)**. But just as he turned down **(the, more, new)** lane that led to his grandmother's **(grabbed, cottage, harder)**, a strange sight caught his eye.

(By, So, It) was a fairy sitting cool as **(a, or, to)** cucumber on a corner fencepost. Patrick **(heavier, houses, stopped)**, closed his eyes, rubbed them, and **(rang, then, great)** opened them again. The fairy was **(still, before, rule)** sitting on the fencepost, and now **(able, hear, she)** was staring at him. The tiny, **(pretended, difference, shimmering)** woman was the most beautiful creature **(grandma, Patrick, thought)** had ever seen. She had long, **(little, heavy, glossy)** hair and wings like a butterfly.

"**(I've, Like, Saw)** been waiting for you all afternoon, **(Patrick, because, called)** O'Connor," she said. "What took you **(me, so, sit)** long to walk home from school?"

"**(In, So, I)** didn't know anyone was waiting for **(old, me, ran)**, so I had no reason to **(nearly, years, hurry)**," Patrick stammered.

"That's an honest answer," **(into, she, lab)** told Patrick. Then she stood up **(and, six, tell)** flapped her pretty wings. Before Patrick **(listened, running, realized)** what was happening, she'd already landed **(now, on, my)** his shoulder and propped her elbow **(on, as, to)** his ear.

"Patrick O'Connor," she whispered. "**(How, Who, Did)** you know your grandmother was friends **(pick, with, call)** the fairies in these parts?"

"No, **(as, so, I)** did not know that," Patrick replied. "**(Made, What, More)** do you want with me?"

"Well, **(were, see, now)** that you and your family live **(two, in, who)** your grandmother's house, the fairies want to be your friends as well. I **(was, all, over)** the one chosen to speak with **(of, you, the)**. Has anyone ever told you that **(the, into, you)** have your grandmother's eyes?" Patrick blushed **(us, into, and)** shoved his hands in his pockets **(up, as, for)** the fairy smiled kindly at him.

"**(By, I, At)** must go now, but we will **(speak, happy, labs)** again very soon," the fairy said **(new, how, as)** she blew him a kiss and **(situations, disappeared, impulsively)**.

Answer Key

Laura was very excited that there were only three days of school this week. The long weekend was going to (**be**, was, on) great because Laura was going to (block, after, **stay**) with her grandma and grandpa. She (smarter, **always**, lights) liked to stay with them because (the, dog, **it**) was so much fun.

Mrs. Stevens (word, **gave**, began) a spelling test on Wednesday morning, (**but**, stay, open) Laura could hardly think because she (turn, **kept**, every) imagining what she was going to (sit, as, **do**) after school. She needed to pack (few, **her**, step) clothes in her new black suitcase. (Out, For, **She**) also needed to bring her favorite (brew, **book**, baked) because each night everyone would sit (to, low, **by**) the fireplace and read. Finally, she (**couldn't**, mourning, smarter) forget Mrs. Mouse, her favorite stuffed (further, little, **animal**), who had slept next to her (as, **in**, how) bed since she was little.

By (fact, **the**, lap) afternoon, Laura had an even harder (tail, fell, **time**) listening to her teacher. Laura thought (**about**, home, city) other nights at her grandparent's house. (Bone, Way, **She**) knew that she'd have to be (are, we, **in**) bed before 8:30, even if it (market, twice, **wasn't**) a school night. She also remembered (my, **the**, all) rule to eat ALL your vegetables. Still, (right, hear, **most**) of the differences were fun. Grandma (**would**, park, knack) always let Laura rent a movie (crow, get, **and**) eat popcorn on the couch. Better (owl, **yet**, with), Laura would be able to hear (pieces, always, **stories**) about things HER dad had done (near, most, **when**) he was a kid. Best of (for, **all**, bit), Grandma would ask her how she (**felt**, love, color) about different things, and Laura would (flutter, ground, **always**) feel safe talking.

That night, when (memory, **Laura's**, you're) dad dropped her off at Grandma's, (us, **he**, to) surprised Laura by picking her up (flames, high, **after**) he'd grabbed the black suitcase. He (camps, **teased**, child) her by saying the suitcase was (landed, around, **heavier**) than she was.

"Have a super (**weekend**, someone, caution), Peanut," he said as he rang (when, **the**, his) doorbell. "I wish I didn't have (all, for, **to**) work out of town, but I (one, **do**, and). Have a great time, and I'll (ball, loot, **see**) you Sunday night."

Grandma opened the (water, when, **front**,) door and gave Laura a big (**hug**, our, but). Grandpa took her suitcase and carried (by, me, **it**) upstairs pretending like it was heavy. (Filled, **Laura**, Homes) heard popcorn popping in the microwave. (**She**, Only, Look) looked at the coffee table and (said, **saw**, from) the movie she wanted to see (other, wire, **about**) a girl's basketball team.

"Yes," thought (bucket, **Laura**, woman). "This weekend is going to be (flames, wood, **great**)!"

Laura was very excited that there were only three days of school this week. The long weekend was going to **(be, was, on)** great because Laura was going to **(block, after, stay)** with her grandma and grandpa. She **(smarter, always, lights)** liked to stay with them because **(the, dog, it)** was so much fun.

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By **(fact, the, lap)** afternoon, Laura had an even harder **(tail, fell, time)** listening to her teacher. Laura thought **(about, home, city)** other nights at her grandparent's house. **(Bone, Way, She)** knew that she'd have to be **(are, we, in)** bed before 8:30, even if it **(market, twice, wasn't)** a school night. She also remembered **(my, the, all)** rule to eat ALL your vegetables. Still, **(right, hear, most)** of the differences were fun. Grandma **(would, park, knack)** always let Laura rent a movie **(crow, get, and)** eat popcorn on the couch. Better **(owl, yet, with)**, Laura would be able to hear **(pieces, always, stories)** about things HER dad had done **(near, most, when)** he was a kid. Best of **(for, all, bit)**, Grandma would ask her how she **(felt, love, color)** about different things, and Laura would **(flutter, ground, always)** feel safe talking.

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"Yes," thought **(bucket, Laura, woman)**. "This weekend is going to be **(flames, wood, great)!**"

Answer Key

"Let's go exploring," suggested Amanda. "I've always dreamed of discovering treasures (day, come, **left**) behind by pioneers."

"Weren't many pioneers (player, **rather**, maybe) poor?" Beth asked thoughtfully. "I never (computer, school, **thought**) of pioneers leaving behind treasures. It (**may**, even, town) be possible that because their wagons (months, picture, **couldn't**) carry everything, travelers buried their belongings (were, **and**, very) hoped they could return for them (screen, **later**, level)."

"I don't care who left it (in, up, **or**) why. I just want to find (answered, **someone's**, champion) long lost money, jewels, gold, or (playing, uniform, **silver**)! Don't you ever daydream about becoming (**rich**, here, score) overnight?"

"Not really," replied Beth. "If (to, I, a) found a lot of money, I'd (controls, surprise, **probably**) just spend it foolishly and it (rocket, waste, **would**) be gone before I knew it."

"(Away, **What**, Sat) if you found gold or jewels?" (there, wants, **asked**) Amanda. "Wouldn't it be fun to (fly, **wear**, among) bangles or hair pieces that were (saved, words, **once**) owned by queens or princesses?"

"Even (remote, **though**, moons) I only wear blue jeans and (asteroid, perfect, **T-shirts**), I suppose it would be amusing (by, **to**, me) decorate my ears and long hair (must, wear, **with**) jewels," laughed Beth. "You know I (**detest**, travel, variety) dresses, and I usually wear a (warriors, because, **ponytail**). I doubt very much that jewels (window, **would**, shining) go with my wardrobe!"

"Does that (ended, next, **mean**) you want to stay home and (able, **play**, stay) something else?" asked Amanda.

"No way," (longer, cool, **cried**) Beth. "Let's go exploring! You never (treat, thing, **know**) what we'll find. We may discover (boat, look, **the**) long lost treasure you've been dreaming (but, **of**, car), or we could find some old (**books**, found, folds) or a long-lost letter. Even (we, and, **if**) we don't find anything, the search (deer, **will**, rude) be fun. We can start at (can, but, **my**) grandma's place down by the river. (Hit, **Let's**, Step) telephone her to get her permission. (Answer, Guys, **Maybe**) we'll get really lucky, and she (**will**, try, soon) bake cookies for us!"

After the (**girls**, future, press) got to Beth's grandma's house and (suddenly, approach, **finished**) their cookies and milk, they ran (they, **off**, move) towards the river. Oh my, what (to, or, **a**) dilemma. Where should they start looking? (Button, **Since**, These) centuries had passed and no trails (believe, question, **remained**), the pioneers could have buried their (**belongings**, yesterday, embarrass) almost anywhere.

The girls sat on (much, off, **the**) riverbank and pretended they were early (totally, hopeful, **pioneers**) traveling through the area. What would (sip, **it**, tea) feel like to leave behind things

Answer Key

(need, **you**, more) love, knowing you might never return? (Why, Are, **As**) they imagined life as pioneers, the (seat, **sun**, by) set. Eventually they ran back to (**the**, them, fold) house to have dinner and ask (future, looks, **Beth's**) grandma what she knew about the (insisted, **pioneers**, pressed).

"Let's go exploring," suggested Amanda. "I've always dreamed of discovering treasures **(day, come, left)** behind by pioneers."

"Weren't many pioneers **(player, rather, maybe)** poor?" Beth asked thoughtfully. "I never **(computer, school, thought)** of pioneers leaving behind treasures. It **(may, even, town)** be possible that because their wagons **(months, picture, couldn't)** carry everything, travelers buried their belongings **(were, and, very)** hoped they could return for them **(screen, later, level).**"

"I don't care who left it **(in, up, or)** why. I just want to find **(answered, someone's, champion)** long lost money, jewels, gold, or **(playing, uniform, silver)**! Don't you ever daydream about becoming **(rich, here, score)** overnight?"

"Not really," replied Beth. "If **(to, I, a)** found a lot of money, I'd **(controls, surprise, probably)** just spend it foolishly and it **(rocket, waste, would)** be gone before I knew it."

"**(Away, What, Sat)** if you found gold or jewels?" **(there, wants, asked)** Amanda. "Wouldn't it be fun to **(fly, wear, among)** bangles or hair pieces that were **(saved, words, once)** owned by queens or princesses?"

"Even **(remote, though, moons)** I only wear blue jeans and **(asteroid, perfect, T-shirts)**, I suppose it would be amusing **(by, to, me)** decorate my ears and long hair **(must, wear, with)** jewels," laughed Beth. "You know I **(detest, travel, variety)** dresses, and I usually wear a **(warriors, because, ponytail)**. I doubt very much that jewels **(window, would, shining)** go with my wardrobe!"

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"No way," **(longer, cool, cried)** Beth. "Let's go exploring! You never **(treat, thing, know)** what we'll find. We may discover **(boat, look, the)** long lost treasure you've been dreaming **(but, of, car)**, or we could find some old **(books, found, folds)** or a long-lost letter. Even **(we, and, if)** we don't find anything, the search **(deer, will, rude)** be fun. We can start at **(can, but, my)** grandma's place down by the river. **(Hit, Let's, Step)** telephone her to get her permission. **(Answer, Guys, Maybe)** we'll get really lucky, and she **(will, try, soon)** bake cookies for us!"

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Answer Key

Little Wolf's mother was hungry for rabbit stew one morning, so she told her son to go out and shoot a rabbit for her. She said she would make a (excited, **savory**, beaten) stew for dinner. Little Wolf was (pulled, parks, **happy**) because he loved to hunt. He (pot, **was**, the) good with a bow and arrow (dull, see, **and**) rarely missed when he shot at (but, **an**, oak) animal.

Little Wolf wasn't in the (**forest**, ocean, taking) for very long before he came (time, **upon**, stroll) a rabbit and took aim. He (mom, that, **was**) just about to release his arrow (sure, **when**, find) the rabbit turned and spoke to (open, dog, **him**).

"Oh, please don't shoot me, brave (outside, stroll, **hunter**)," the rabbit pleaded. "I am the (beacon, **mother**, whales) of five defenseless babies. If you (**kill**, just, guess) me, my children will starve."

Little (bones, hurry, **Wolf**) did not lower his bow and (slamming, **continued**, impressive) to aim the arrow right between (out, with, **the**) rabbit's pleading eyes.

"My mother is (carpet, **hungry**, skipped) for rabbit stew," he told her. "(Say, **She**, Too) sent me out into the forest (ask, hook, **for**) rabbit and will be very angry (see, **if**, lie) I return with nothing."

"Return with (imagine, **nothing**, stretch), wise hunter. If you let me (by, or, **go**) so I may tend to my (**babies**, board, toward), I will give you the best (to, how, **of**) luck with my magical powers."

"Bah!" (think, **Little**, street) Wolf said. "We do not need (bear, **luck**, spun). We need food." Still, even though (office, endless, **Little**) Wolf was famished, he could not (where, **shoot**, board) the rabbit because she had spoken (as, my, **to**) him.

"Go on then. I will (blink, **shoot**, about) another rabbit," he said. Despite the (**good**, want, still) luck promised to him, he returned (smell, ship, **that**) evening without a rabbit for his (sunshine, looking, **mother's**) stew.

"You lazy boy!" his mother (vanilla, **shouted**, anything) at him. "Go down to the (smile, great, **river**) and fetch some water for me."

(At, **On**, My) the trail to the river, Little (**Wolf**, never, loud) thought he caught a glimpse of (way, **the**, test) rabbit he'd let go earlier, but (so, I'll, **it**) was too dark to be certain. (Boy, Such, **When**) he got to the river, he (skilled, **dipped**, tempt) his mother's jug into the current, (high, asks, **only**) to pull it out and find (my, in, **a**) silver trout trapped inside. Little Wolf (blast, **tossed**, among) the trout on the beach, dipped (an, let, **the**) jug again, and out came another (says, liar, **fish**)!

"What luck!" Little Wolf said. He (she, **and**, now) his mother had savory trout stew (can, see, **for**) dinner. Little Wolf thought trout stew (more, **was**, me) better than rabbit stew any day.

Little Wolf's mother was hungry for rabbit stew one morning, so she told her son to go out and shoot a rabbit for her. She said she would make a **(excited, savory, beaten)** stew for dinner. Little Wolf was **(pulled, parks, happy)** because he loved to hunt. He **(pot, was, the)** good with a bow and arrow **(dull, see, and)** rarely missed when he shot at **(but, an, oak)** animal.

Little Wolf wasn't in the **(forest, ocean, taking)** for very long before he came **(time, upon, stroll)** a rabbit and took aim. He **(mom, that, was)** just about to release his arrow **(sure, when, find)** the rabbit turned and spoke to **(open, dog, him)**.

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Answer Key

Molly tried to sleep, but she couldn't. Every time she closed her eyes (from, joy, **and**) tried to snuggle her pillows, she (great, **would**, final) remember that tomorrow it would be (face, even, **her**) turn to stand up in front (him, **of**, sue) the class, in front of EVERYONE, (**and**, like, more) give her speech.

Molly couldn't help (as, my, **it**), she was nervous. Tonight when her (**mom**, was, near) tucked her into bed, she folded (no, were, **the**) covers around Molly more snugly than (eager, **usual**, paint).

"I know you're nervous because of (**your**, large, made) speech tomorrow, Molly, but you really (that, beach, **have**) nothing to be scared of."

Molly (splash, **couldn't**, touches) speak, so she nodded instead. Her (left, sun, **mom**) didn't really know what Molly was (age, **so**, now) nervous about. Her mom was thirty-(most, need, **five**) years old, not eight years old (**and**, by, scar) in fourth grade like Molly.

She (gusted, **didn't**, wind) know that Michael O'Connor sat in (roof, bare, **the**) front row of Molly's class. She (lovely, gloomy, **didn't**) know that whenever a girl got (far, **up**, him) to give her speech, he made (middle, **funny**, real) faces and stuck his tongue out (**at**, be, of) her.

What if Molly stood in (barren, alone, **front**) of the class tomorrow and found (were, **she**, loud) couldn't speak? What if she blushed (heart, dismal, **until**) she was as red as a (east, **beet**, wood)? What if her eyes popped out (**and**, face, even) rolled between the aisles to the (neglected, **teacher's**, hurried) desk? What if everyone laughed at (sand, swam, **her**)?

Molly's speech was about the lions (get, **in**, had) Africa. It was about how they (dreary, trees, **lived**) in families called "prides" and how (depicting, hopeless, **lionesses**) did all the hunting. What if (painter, **nobody**, touch) cared about lions?

Molly didn't remember (**falling**, cottage, stopped) asleep. She must have slept because (down, tiny, **the**) next time she opened her eyes (how, **it**, so) was morning and time to go (my, new, **to**) school. Even though she was more (from, wild, **than**) a little bit scared and so (**nervous**, cliffs, creature) she could only eat half her (reason, staring, **cereal**), she still went.

When it was (near, **time**, them) for Molly to give her speech, (led, mean, **the**) whole classroom suddenly got quiet. Molly (route, your, **went**) to the front of the room, (well, **her**, prop) hands trembling. There was Michael O'Connor (**crossing**, beautiful, nothing) his eyes. Molly looked at him (lane, **and**, meat) then looked away.

"Lions live in (Patrick, **Africa**, loves)," Molly said and went on with (was, her, came) speech.

Molly tried to sleep, but she couldn't. Every time she closed her eyes (**from, joy, and**) tried to snuggle her pillows, she (**great, would, final**) remember that tomorrow it would be (**face, even, her**) turn to stand up in front (**him, of, sue**) the class, in front of EVERYONE, (**and, like, more**) give her speech.

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"Lions live in (**Patrick, Africa, loves**)," Molly said and went on with (**was, her, came**) speech.

Answer Key

Mr. Shrunk worked as a filing clerk at the telephone company. All day long he filed names, (there, **names**, school), and more names. Mr. Shrunk thought (with, new, **his**) job was probably the most boring (stay, fun, **job**) on the planet.

One day, Mr. (Laura, **Shrunk**, still) could not take it any longer. (**Even**, Test, Think) though he was in the middle (she, **of**, to) organizing a huge stack of folders, (do, any, **he**) stood up, put on his jacket, (work, over, **and**) walked out the door.

"That's the (boat, **last**, red) I'll ever see of that place," (**he**, all, can) said to himself as he climbed (even, rent, **into**) his car and drove home. "Now (a, **I**, so) need to find myself a new (be, **and**, cry) more exciting job."

The next morning (off, have, **over**) a bowl of chocolate crunch cereal, (who, **Mr.**, be) Shrunk reviewed the classifieds in the (harder, **daily**, clear) paper.

"It looks like they need (**help**, list, upon) at both the police station and (was, near, **the**) fire station. I'll apply at both (night, **places**, heavy)," he said to himself. Mr. Shrunk (suitcase, weekend, **finished**) his cereal, changed out of his (favorite, **pajamas**, hardly) and slippers into a suit and (**tie**, now, bed), and went out to look for (much, **work**, took).

First, he stopped at the police (talking, animal, **station**), where he got the chance to (rule, **ride**, rang) around with a pair of police (vegetable, everyone, **officers**) in their squad car. An hour (going, **later**, forget), Mr. Shrunk decided dodging bullets and (safe, pack, **high**)-speed chases were not for him.

(**At**, Be, No) the fire station, the firemen asked (as, so, **Mr.**) Shrunk to climb five stories of (doorbell, **ladders**, popcorn) and then slide down the long (town, black, **fire**) pole. Since he was afraid of (upstairs, **heights**, imagine) and burning objects, he left the (from, how, **fire**) station without a job.

The next (dreamed, **morning**, thought), Mr. Shrunk reviewed the classified ads (**yet**, long, ear) again. He was about to set (start, **aside**, doubt) the paper when an ad on (lot, **the**, wear) far corner of the page caught (you, very, **his**) attention.

The ad read, "Brave stunt (blue, near, **man**) wanted for dangerous stunts in a (bangles, **feature**, usually) Hollywood film." The ad said the (jewels, wagons, **studio**) was looking for a tall man (down, more, **with**) a medium build and a mustache. (**The**, Else, Stay) ad also gave the number to (bake, here, **call**) if interested. Mr. Shrunk stood up.

"(My, Saw, **I'm**) tall," he said. "I have a (behind, **medium**, cookies) build and a mustache." He marched (passed, **across**, dinner) his kitchen and picked up the (permission, treasure, **telephone**). Mr. Shrunk was sure tomorrow he (early, queen, **would**) start a new job.

Mr. Shrunk worked as a filing clerk at the telephone company. All day long he filed names, **(there, names, school)**, and more names. Mr. Shrunk thought **(with, new, his)** job was probably the most boring **(stay, fun, job)** on the planet.

One day, Mr. **(Laura, Shrunk, still)** could not take it any longer. **(Even, Test, Think)** though he was in the middle **(she, of, to)** organizing a huge stack of folders, **(do, any, he)** stood up, put on his jacket, **(work, over, and)** walked out the door.

"That's the **(boat, last, red)** I'll ever see of that place," **(he, all, can)** said to himself as he climbed **(even, rent, into)** his car and drove home. "Now **(a, I, so)** need to find myself a new **(be, and, cry)** more exciting job."

The next morning **(off, have, over)** a bowl of chocolate crunch cereal, **(who, Mr., be)** Shrunk reviewed the classifieds in the **(harder, daily, clear)** paper.

"It looks like they need **(help, list, upon)** at both the police station and **(was, near, the)** fire station. I'll apply at both **(night, places, heavy)**," he said to himself. Mr. Shrunk **(suitcase, weekend, finished)** his cereal, changed out of his **(favorite, pajamas, hardly)** and slippers into a suit and **(tie, now, bed)**, and went out to look for **(much, work, took)**.

First, he stopped at the police **(talking, animal, station)**, where he got the chance to **(rule, ride, rang)** around with a pair of police **(vegetable, everyone, officers)** in their squad car. An hour **(going, later, forget)**, Mr. Shrunk decided dodging bullets and **(safe, pack, high)**-speed chases were not for him.

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Answer Key

My name is Elmer, and I'm nearly six years old. Six years old is about 42 (new, hour, **dog**) years, so it is a little (performance, **embarrassing**, neighborhood) to tell you that I got (**lost**, saw, how) at my age. Actually, I got (make, **lost**, you) because I listened to my kennel (must, rocks, **mate**), Abby, who often gets us into (shovels, leaped, **trouble**).

We traveled from Illinois to Michigan (his, **to**, and) see our owners' relatives. It was (to, **a**, by) long ride, and our owners did (**quite**, paced, length) a bit of visiting when they (walked, thinking, **arrived**). I guess that's why we missed (help, **our**, near) long daily walk. When they let (had, by, **us**) out the next morning, Abby took (prepared, **advantage**, wonderful) of the situation and started running. (In, As, **I**) impulsively followed her!

We were exploring (or, up, **a**) new neighborhood, and the next thing (**I**, if, at) knew, two black Labradors appeared and (special, animals, **started**) sniffing me all over. Abby bolted (songbird, **towards**, silence) the highway and left me to (soon, other, **fend**) for myself. The labs' owner, who (perform, **seemed**, himself) mean at that moment, tried to (**control**, talent, forest) her noisy dogs. Finally, she placed (they, last, **her**) hands on her hips and firmly (showed, **yelled**, tonight), "Kennel!" I understood that word, so (to, of, **I**) ran into the kennel with the (solo, there, **labs**). I guess I wasn't supposed to (was, **go**, the) inside because she dragged me out (but, the, **by**) my collar.

The lady commanded me (**to**, by, he) sit. She read my tags and (clothing, **giggled**, because). Then she asked a familiar but (outstanding, **embarrassing**, opportunity) question. "Elmer? What kind of name (you, can, **is**) that for a handsome dog like (adventure, burritos, **yourself**)?" She called my owners' number and (**left**, have, great) a message for them. My owners (famous, **quickly**, person) returned her call and made arrangements (the, **to**, is) pick me up. She fed me (city, next, **some**) biscuits and called her office to (good, make, **say**) she'd be late. She offered me (**a**, is, so) portable kennel to sit in while (can, see, **my**) owners came to get me. My (things, example, **owners**) were happy to see me. They (loving, **thanked**, museum) the nice lady before she left (by, **for**, have) work.

Some people say it's a (pass, this, **dog**) eat dog world out there, but (up, a, **I**) disagree. Especially when you are lucky (**enough**, great, chance) to get lost near a kind (for, **dog**, good) owner. However, I know was lucky, (time, **and**, bed) I think I've learned my lesson. (**The**, Near, Go) next time Abby wants to go (different, **exploring**, sometimes), I'll remind her that there's no (should, **place**, visit) like home.

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Answer Key

Old Mr. Jenkins was digging around in his flower garden one afternoon when his hoe hit something solid. He put down the hoe and (there, **picked**, small) up a shovel.

"It must be (upon, name, **one**) of those pesky rocks again," he (boy, **told**, was) his cat, Virginia, who was always (**watching**, roosters, morning) him. "When will I get rid (in, had, **of**) all of the rocks in my (village, **garden**, lived)? I've been digging up rocks for (small, every, **more**) than fifty years."

"Meow," Virginia said (say, the, **as**) she watched Mr. Jenkins turn and (three, **start**, they) digging.

The rock that Mr. Jenkins (soon, **hit**, call) with his hoe was long and (would, heard, **narrow**). It was soft, brown in color, (**and**, how, near) had two rounded ends. At first (a, **Mr.**, by) Jenkins thought he was digging up (my, he, **a**) petrified log. Soon though, he realized (and, **he**, was) was digging up a fossilized bone.

"(Time, Much, **Good**) heavens!" Mr. Jenkins exclaimed when he'd (stages, **finally**, clapped) unearthed the bone and saw how (shyly, **huge**, came) it was. "What do you make (**of**, but, too) this thing, Virginia?"

Virginia, the cat, (along, beach, **leaped**) gracefully down into the hole Mr. (perfect, **Jenkins**, winter) just dug.

Mr. Jenkins could tell (beautiful, forward, **Virginia**) was thinking as she paced the (drama, **length**, friend) of the bone. Finally, Virginia stopped. (**She**, Last, Book) jumped out of the hole and (forgot, shyness, **stopped**) five feet across the lawn from (one, **it**, saw). She began to dig another hole (lost, turn, **with**) her furry paws.

Mr. Jenkins was (ring, **about**, long) to scold Virginia because she was (finish, **digging**, raccoon) in the middle of his tulip (them, sign, **patch**), but he was curious. Instead of (**hollering**, director, requested), he picked up his shovel and (movie, bay, **went**) to help.

An hour later, Virginia (even, **and**, now) Mr. Jenkins dug up another bone. (Know, **This**, Trust) bone was the skull of a (winning, beamed, **dinosaur**). It was as big as Mr. (sister, agreed, **Jenkins'**) lawn mower and had rows and (upon, **rows**, have) of sharp teeth. The teeth were (**the**, role, end) same size as the blade on (of, my, **Mr.**) Jenkins' hoe. When Mr. Jenkins saw (star, **the**, way) skull, he set it down carefully (big, out, **and**) walked into his house. From his (jumped, bullets, **kitchen**), he used the telephone and called (**the**, work, his) local museum.

"I've got something out (**in**, was, big) my garden I think you'll want (not, put, **to**) see," he told the scientist who (costume, watching, **answered**) the phone. "Bring shovels!"

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Answer Key

Once upon a time, in a small village called Bandion, there lived a boy called Samir. Samir had three roosters, and every (mermaid, belonged, **morning**) they would say, "Cock-a-doodle-(as, **do**, now)! Cock-a-doodle-do!" As soon (by, who, **as**) Grandma heard their call, she would (just, **get**, with) up and start her day. They (under, truth, **would**) call again, and Grandpa would rise (**and**, chin, swim) begin his day. When they called (deep, hand, **for**) the third time, Samir and his (water, **father**, right), mother, and brothers would wake up (sea, back, **and**) get ready for the new day. (**Everyone**, Panicked, Harmless) in Samir's family depended on the (turtles, swirled, **roosters**) to wake them up in the (herself, popped, **morning**). Samir loved his roosters very much (have, **and**, don't) took excellent care of them.

One (all, **day**, held), two of Samir's uncles came to (**the**, now, saw) village to visit. They stayed for (mermaid, flashes, **several**) days. The roosters would say, "Cock-(on, **a**, or)-doodle-do" promptly at the stroke (by, **of**, now) every hour. Samir's uncles were impressed (with, our, **that**) his family didn't need a clock, (**and**, book, held) they wished they each had one (**of**, by, his) Samir's roosters. On the last day (you, me, **of**) their visit, Samir's uncles convinced him (see, **to**, how) give them each a rooster. After (were, too, **all**), he did have three roosters and (head, can, **one**) rooster should be enough. Each uncle (could, **picked**, nobody) a rooster and left for their (**home**, going, when).

Samir stroked the rooster that was (stuck, magic, **left**) behind. "You are all alone now," (to, all, **he**) said sadly.

The next morning, the (get, **lone**, see) rooster did not crow. Grandma waited (them, open, **and**) waited for it to call. When (kitchen, **Grandpa**, knocked) finally got up and left for (said, **work**, more), he was late. Everyone in the (coming, slight, **family**) got up late that day, and (**everyone**, invisible, collect) was angry

"Why didn't the rooster (wink, about, **crow**)?" everyone asked. Samir understood. The remaining (grandma, **rooster**, street) was lonely and missed his friends (cold, trade, **very**) much. Samir decided to write to (corn, **his**, back) uncles and beg them to return (much, places, **their**) roosters. Before he could finish his (sticks, **letters**, stamping), there was a knock at the (**door**, mouth, boy). Both of his uncles had returned (said, **with**, long) their roosters.

"Take your roosters back," (water, not, **they**) said. They did not crow this (foolish, dumped, **morning**), and we were all late!"

Samir (because, **gathered**, skillful) his roosters into his arms and (**said**, much, bowl), "You clever roosters. You planned not (my, for, **to**) crow if you were ever separated."

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Answer Key

One day Addie was collecting seashells in the surf when the flash of a fish tail caught her eye. At first Addie thought she'd seen (club, for, **the**) tail of a really small whale, (how, **so**, we) she backed away. Suddenly, a woman's (team, this, **head**) popped up out of the water, (**and**, came, now) Addie saw that the tail belonged (by, as, **to**) a mermaid.

The mermaid had tangled (wrote, story, **green**) hair. She had webbed skin between (kick, **her**, next) blue fingers and gills behind her (turn, class, **ears**). The scales on her tail were (school, **silver**, below) and green.

Addie was so surprised (two, them, **she**) dropped her seashells. Her mother had (wished, **always**, control) told her that mermaids didn't exist.

"(Saw, **Do**, Hey) not be frightened of me," the (advise, agreed, **mermaid**) said. "I'm the last of my (past, **kind**, field) living in these waters, and I'm (**terribly**, outside, project) lonely. Would you like to come (eager, group, **under**) the water with me? I'll give (**you**, with, goal) a tour of the ocean."

Addie (swift, ship, **knew**) that she probably shouldn't go with (flew, **the**, here) mermaid, but her curiosity was too (caused, **fierce**, voice). Soon she found herself chin deep (be, of, **in**) the sea with the mermaid splashing (sound, **beside**, knocked) her.

"I don't think I should (to, **go**, arm) under the water," Addie said. "I (among, call, **don't**) have gills behind my ears like (look, blue, **you**) do."

"Just hold my hand tightly, (**and**, open, you) everything will be all right," the (troupe, **mermaid**, morning) replied. Then she took Addie's hand (door, see, **and**) dove under the water.

At first (monkey, would, **Addie**) panicked as the green waves swirled (sparkle, moving, **around**) her. But she quickly realized the (around, **mermaid**, complain) was telling the truth. As long (to, **as**, him) Addie held onto her hand, she (shout, pair, **could**) breathe under water and swim like (**a**, up, to) fish.

"Come on now," the mermaid (brown, looks, **told**) Addie. Her voice sounded eerie under (hand, **the**, my) water.

The mermaid gave Addie a (other, **tour**, lion) of the coral reef, and they (very, hours, **swam**) with a colony of harmless jellyfish. (More, Ask, **They**) even rode on the back of (on, **a**, if) giant sea turtle. When Addie finally (tiny, **let**, mama) go of the mermaid's hand and (gasped, steep, **waded**) out of the water, the sun (back, cane, **was**) setting and she could hear her (**mother**, noise, animal) calling for her.

"Thanks," Addie said.

"(Sat, Hour, **Any**) time, friend," the mermaid replied, and (news, join, **with**) a flash of her tail, she (then, **was**, come) gone.

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Answer Key

The land outside the hunting grounds of Black Raven's tribe was beautiful and filled with wild game and tall trees. Unfortunately, no one would brave the (**rapids**, filled, young) of the Silver River to get (**to**, come, only) it. As a result, Black Raven's (no, **family**, outside) and friends were running out of (stay, rapids, **food**).

The Silver River twisted through a (**mountain**, only, peeled) pass on the edge of the (unfortunately, **tribe's**, could) territory. The stone cliffs of the (**mountain**, was, running) pass were sharp and steep, and (**no**, thought, was) one could climb them. The only (of, territory, **way**) out of the valley was on (one, just, **the**) river, but sadly, no one was (get, the, **daring**)—or reckless—enough to brave the (as, sharp, **untamed**) water.

Many young men in the (brave, edge, **tribe**) boasted that some day they would (need, one, **ride**) the river to the other side (pass, **of**, twisted) the mountains and into the fertile (**valley**, what, rocks). They bragged around the campfires as (and, **they**, or) ate the last of the silver (valley, he, **trout**) from the Silver River.

One evening (**the**, a, and) old wise man of the tribe (**interrupted**, other, quietly) the young men's talk and spoke. "(As, Cliffs, **The**) time has come," he said, "for (work, climb, **someone**) to journey beyond our lands. Who (of, as, **is**) brave enough to ride the river?"

(Step, **Many**, Black) of the young men around the (sharp, **fire**, of) jumped up without thinking. Some of (**them**, were, tribe) couldn't even swim, but they raised (I, **their**, he) hands just the same and shouted (an, what, **out**) that they would surely beat the (bit, stood, **river**) and become heroes.

Black Raven was (and, **the**, stood) only young man to stay seated. (**He**, The, And) thought quietly as the other men (reckless, was, **strutted**) and swaggered. He thought about what (to, old, **kind**) of vessel he would need to (river, them, **float**) on top of the water and (he, **avoid**, thought) the sharp rocks of the rapids, (of, **and**, sadly) as he thought, he reached out (the, **and**, pass) fingered the silvery bark of one (and, **of**, only) the birch trees nearest to him. (Thought, Might, **He**) peeled a bit off the tree (only, was, **and**) thought it just might work.

"What (were, **about**, on) you, Black Raven?" one of the (reached, **arrogant**, idea) boys called out. "Are you too (over, outside, **frightened**) to take on the river?"

"No," (**Black**, would, through) Raven said as he stood. "I (no, **think**, off) I have an idea that might (**work**, three, man). Come, let us sit and think (**this**, have, said) over."

The land outside the hunting grounds of Black Raven's tribe was beautiful and filled with wild game and tall trees. Unfortunately, no one would brave the (**rapids, filled, young**) of the Silver River to get (**to, come, only**) it. As a result, Black Raven's (**no, family, outside**) and friends were running out of (**stay, rapids, food**).

The Silver River twisted through a (**mountain, only, peeled**) pass on the edge of the (**unfortunately, tribe's, could**) territory. The stone cliffs of the (**mountain, was, running**) pass were sharp and steep, and (**no, thought, was**) one could climb them. The only (**of, territory, way**) out of the valley was on (**one, just, the**) river, but sadly, no one was (**get, the, daring**)—or reckless—enough to brave the (**as, sharp, untamed**) water.

Many young men in the (**brave, edge, tribe**) boasted that some day they would (**need, one, ride**) the river to the other side (**pass, of, twisted**) the mountains and into the fertile (**valley, what, rocks**). They bragged around the campfires as (**and, they, or**) ate the last of the silver (**valley, he, trout**) from the Silver River.

One evening (**the, a, and**) old wise man of the tribe (**interrupted, other, quietly**) the young men's talk and spoke. "(**As, Cliffs, The**) time has come," he said, "for (**work, climb, someone**) to journey beyond our lands. Who (**of, as, is**) brave enough to ride the river?"

(**Step, Many, Black**) of the young men around the (**sharp, fire, of**) jumped up without thinking. Some of (**them, were, tribe**) couldn't even swim, but they raised (**I, their, he**) hands just the same and shouted (**an, what, out**) that they would surely beat the (**bit, stood, river**) and become heroes.

Black Raven was (**and, the, stood**) only young man to stay seated. (**He, The, And**) thought quietly as the other men (**reckless, was, strutted**) and swaggered. He thought about what (**to, old, kind**) of vessel he would need to (**river, them, float**) on top of the water and (**he, avoid, thought**) the sharp rocks of the rapids, (**of, and, sadly**) as he thought, he reached out (**the, and, pass**) fingered the silvery bark of one (**and, of, only**) the birch trees nearest to him. (**Thought, Might, He**) peeled a bit off the tree (**only, was, and**) thought it just might work.

"What (**were, about, on**) you, Black Raven?" one of the (**reached, arrogant, idea**) boys called out. "Are you too (**over, outside, frightened**) to take on the river?"

"No," (**Black, would, through**) Raven said as he stood. "I (**no, think, off**) I have an idea that might (**work, three, man**). Come, let us sit and think (**this, have, said**) over."

Answer Key

Randy was a raccoon, and he loved to act on stage. He was preparing an animal talent (**show**, stew, took). Randy scurried throughout the forest talking (by, as, **to**) the animals of the woods. He (loved, **wanted**, lower) each animal to perform one act (or, who, **in**) the animal talent show.

Soon the (will, **big**, him) night came. All the animals of (**the**, don't, go) forest showed up for the performance. (River, Then, **Randy**) organized the performers, and the first (good, **one**, too) to perform was Gretchen the goose.

(Glimpse, Pleading, **Gretchen**) walked out on stage and said, "(Shoot, Lazy, **Thank**) you all for coming tonight. I've (perform, **prepared**, animals) a special song I would like (**to**, for, he) sing for you." She took a (trail, day, **deep**) breath and honked. She honked and (hungry, **honked**, arrow) and honked. It did not sound (sent, need, **very**) good, but it was the best (tend, **that**, more) Gretchen could do. She bowed when (luck, now, she) was finished, and all the animals (**clapped**, famished, another) politely.

"Borris, you're next," said Randy. (Caught, Savory, **Borris**) the bear shyly walked out on (fetch, **stage**, dark) staring at the floor.

"Uh, I (jug, **am**, boy) going to dance," said Borris. The (pull, **bear**, find) danced a little, shuffling his feet (said, any, **back**) and forth. He soon forgot his (certain, earlier, **shyness**) began to really enjoy himself. He (time, closed, **stood**) on his back feet and danced (**backwards**, tomorrow, remember) and forwards. He turned around in (to, **a**, up) circle. He jumped from one foot (as, **to**, I) the other. The animals cheered and (whenever, nervous, **whistled**). Borris' dance was really quite good.

(But, With, **Sue**) the songbird was up next. She (went, **sang**, live) a beautiful solo. Her performance was (looked, **perfect**, suddenly), thanks to all her years of (classroom, trembling, **practicing**). The animals sat in awed silence (class, **until**, about) she finished.

Robert the rabbit performed (**a**, in, so) play in which he acted as (her, to, **if**) a man was hunting him. First (not, eat, **he**) ran away, then he ran back, (half, **and**, only) then he acted as if he (bit, with, **were**) hit by a bullet. The animals (**clapped**, morning, aisles), but they were too scared by (when, give, **the**) drama to enjoy it.

Randy the (opened, quieted, **raccoon**) was the last one to perform. (But, **He**, So) performed a wonderful drama about a (front, **king**, blush) who was looking for a queen. (And, **The**, Give) audience laughed and cried. The animals (pride, calls, **loved**) Randy's performance. They clapped and requested (asleep, crosses, **another**) performance.

"Please come to the next (**animal**, lioness, speech) talent show, and you will see (years, **more**, usual)," said Randy. All the animals of (what, roll, **the**) forest left the talent show looking (blushed, **forward**, fourth) to the next performance.

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"Borris, you're next," said Randy. **(Caught, Savory, Borris)** the bear shyly walked out on **(fetch, stage, dark)** staring at the floor.

"Uh, I **(jug, am, boy)** going to dance," said Borris. The **(pull, bear, find)** danced a little, shuffling his feet **(said, any, back)** and forth. He soon forgot his **(certain, earlier, shyness)** began to really enjoy himself. He **(time, closed, stood)** on his back feet and danced **(backwards, tomorrow, remember)** and forwards. He turned around in **(to, a, up)** circle. He jumped from one foot **(as, to, I)** the other. The animals cheered and **(whenever, nervous, whistled)**. Borris' dance was really quite good.

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"Please come to the next **(animal, lioness, speech)** talent show, and you will see **(years, more, usual)**," said Randy. All the animals of **(what, roll, the)** forest left the talent show looking **(blushed, forward, fourth)** to the next performance.

Answer Key

Tad didn't pay much attention to the goldfish in the crystal bowl on his dresser. Most mornings he just tapped a (all, **bit**, more) of food into the bowl and (most, **went**, huge) to school. He never talked to (day, job, **his**) pet. He never admired the fish's (filing, thought, **golden**) scales or delicate fins and tail, (**and**, long, most) he didn't notice the skillful way (was, any, **in**) which the fish swam circles in (one, **the**, take) water.

One day Tad was feeding (put, new, **his**) fish and thinking about the monster (stack, jacket, **movie**) he planned to see that evening, (they, **when**, both) the fish spoke to him.

"Hey," (need, over, **the**) fish gargled, "you're dumping too much (**food**, car, hour) into my bowl. Watch what you're (crunch, pair, **doing**), foolish boy!" Tad was so surprised (got, **he**, to) dropped the container of fish food (at, out, **on**) the floor.

"No," he said to (**himself**, changed, slippers) as he shook his head. "It (fire, calm, **isn't**) possible for my fish to speak (by, not, **to**) me because fish don't talk. This (**kind**, suit, work) of thing only happens in monster (cereal, **movies**, chance), not in reality."

"This is happening (in, **to**, for) you," the fish proclaimed. "I'm (by, is, **a**) goldfish, and I'm speaking to you, (object, climb, **young**) man. You've ignored me since the (job, **day**, yet) you got me. For one thing, (long, **the**, has) water in this bowl is too (**cold**, again, aside). Just dip your finger in it, (when, **and**, far) test it yourself. I don't know (page, **how**, read) I've survived under these cruel conditions."

(Ad, For, **Of**) course, the water in the bowl (medium, stood, **wasn't**) too cold for the goldfish, but (**how**, tall, gave) was Tad to know? How was (call, sure, **Tad**) to know that his goldfish was (name, six, **not**) an ordinary fish, and as soon (so, **as**, dog) he dipped his finger into the (lost, **water**, mate), he would trade places with the (listened, traveled, **goldfish**)?

Tad stuck his finger in the (often, daily, **water**) and found it was cold, but (**not**, our, did) freezing. "It feels just fine to (all, shy, **me**)," he tried to say, but no (start, **sound**, owner) escaped him. Tad was now trapped (who, **in**, try) the fish bowl, and the goldfish (**had**, mean, hip) become a little boy. Tad swam (message, suppose, **around**) the fish bowl frantically, but when (get, eat, **he**) tried to speak, only bubbles came (I've, **out**, you) of his mouth. He watched his (wants, **fish**, that), who was now a boy, move (**around**, yelled, lesson) his bedroom.

"I think I'll try (see, why, **one**) to see one of those monster (however, **movies**, people) you mentioned," he told Tad. "Goodbye, (portable, **Tadpole**, Labrador)."

Tad didn't pay much attention to the goldfish in the crystal bowl on his dresser. Most mornings he just tapped a **(all, bit, more)** of food into the bowl and **(most, went, huge)** to school. He never talked to **(day, job, his)** pet. He never admired the fish's **(filing, thought, golden)** scales or delicate fins and tail, **(and, long, most)** he didn't notice the skillful way **(was, any, in)** which the fish swam circles in **(one, the, take)** water.

One day Tad was feeding **(put, new, his)** fish and thinking about the monster **(stack, jacket, movie)** he planned to see that evening, **(they, when, both)** the fish spoke to him.

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Answer Key

The Writer's Club was an interesting group of talented school children who loved to write. Their faculty advisor suggested an interesting (around, flower, **project**) for them. Each of them would (solid, **write**, when) one paragraph of a story that (**would**, pesky, years) be printed in the school newspaper. (Told, Get, **The**) suggestion was eagerly accepted by participants. (House, **Joanie**, Heavens), the sports star of the school, (could, paced, **began**) the story. She wrote this paragraph:

"(Meow, Same, **Judy**) sat in class and watched her (**friend's**, curious, length) gym class play soccer. She wished (saw, **so**, cat) hard that she could be excused (feet, soon, **from**) class and play with them. Suddenly, (out, **her**, dig) teacher saw her looking outside and (hole, came, **said**), 'Why don't you go and play (**with**, bone, tulip) them?' Judy didn't sit there another (fossil, earth, **minute**). She grabbed her books and folders (step, told, **and**) ran out to the field. She (careful, **joined**, you'll) the soccer team and immediately scored (by, **a**, us) goal. She was awesome!"

Next was (**Scott's**, sharp, paced) turn. He was a fan of (walked, **science**, scolded) fiction.

"Just as Judy scored the (village, rooster, **winning**) soccer goal, aliens beamed her aboard (upon, **their**, small) ship and flew off. Two large (lived, heard, **alien**) guards came at her to seize (**her**, soon, call) and throw her into a cell. (Day, Time, **Judy**) gave the two of them a (wake, **swift**, ready) kick to the shins and seized (brother, **control**, depend) of their ship. She flew back (she, in, **to**) her school and waved at the (everyone, convinced, **students**) below."

It was Jessica's turn next. (**She**, Have, Late) loved movies, so she wrote about (left, later, **them**).

"Then Judy flew off to California. (The, One, **She**) flew the spaceship right past the (understand, **Hollywood**, separated) sign and landed at a movie (knock, **studio**, return). One movie director asked if she (**would**, write, uncle) fly her spaceship for him in (**one**, not, crow) of his movies. She said, 'Yes, (his, got, **but**) only if I can have the (convinced, **starring**, depended) role.' The director agreed."

Finally it (both, **was**, play) Stephen's turn. The faculty advisor asked (care, loot, **him**) to end the story with a (pit, ball, **nice**) conclusion.

"But Judy was bored as (he, **a**, I) movie star and with the spaceship, (**so**, has, bet) she returned home and went to (soap, clam, **bed**). The next day at school all (rude, **her**, crow) friends asked her what happened. All (door, **she**, mean) said was, 'I scored the winning (throw, frown, **soccer**) goal.'"

The story was published in (**the**, ant, come) school newspaper, and the readers requested (by, **a**, or) sequel.

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Next was **(Scott's, sharp, paced)** turn. He was a fan of **(walked, science, scolded)** fiction.

"Just as Judy scored the **(village, rooster, winning)** soccer goal, aliens beamed her aboard **(upon, their, small)** ship and flew off. Two large **(lived, heard, alien)** guards came at her to seize **(her, soon, call)** and throw her into a cell. **(Day, Time, Judy)** gave the two of them a **(wake, swift, ready)** kick to the shins and seized **(brother, control, depend)** of their ship. She flew back **(she, in, to)** her school and waved at the **(everyone, convinced, students)** below."

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The story was published in **(the, ant, come)** school newspaper, and the readers requested **(by, a, or)** sequel.

Answer Key

Thelma's new neighbor was mighty odd. She knew her neighbor was strange (surf, tail, **from**) the moment the moving van pulled (fish, **into**, real) the driveway of the house across (eye, at, **the**) street. She knew he was different (seen, small, **just**) as soon as she saw him (**walk**, shell, pop) up to the front door of (saw, **his**, out) new house.

Thelma wanted to walk (water, backed, **across**) the street and introduce herself, but (ears, like, **her**) new neighbor's costume made her stop (all, **and**, this) stare. The man wore shiny black (close, **boots**, these) that came to his knees and (by, or, **a**) black top hat. He had a (surprised, belonged, **mustache**) that curled up at the ends (**and**, told, more) a peculiar sparkle that lit his (curiosity, realized, **chocolate**) brown eyes. Thelma watched as he (chin, waters, **threw**) open his front door, took a (splash, **moment**, green) to look inside, and then abruptly (dove, **swung**, eerie) around and walked back to the (**moving**, swirled, breathe) truck parked in his driveway.

"Well, (hand, **come**, truth) on," he shouted. "Make yourselves at (long, held, **home**)!"

Then, to Thelma's complete surprise, a (ears, **gang**, flash) of clowns stepped out of the (time, reef, **back**) of the truck. A troupe of (harmless, **monkeys**, mermaid) and many more exotic animals followed (like, onto, **the**) clowns. Thelma saw a pair of (**zebras**, coral, colony), a bearded lion, and a very (final, hear, **large**) tiger. She gasped when she saw (of, **a**, be) mama elephant and her tiny baby.

"(Her, **How**, And) could the circus be moving in (setting, **across**, behind) the street?" Thelma asked herself. What (lonely, tells, **would**) she and the other neighbors do (rainy, found, **about**) the noise that would surely be (himself, **caused**, nothing) by their new neighbor with all (work, boom, **his**) animals?

Thelma stayed at home and (in, **sat**, over) by the telephone, waiting for her (afternoon, approached, **neighbors**) to call and complain about the (desk, **new**, since) neighbor. She sat for hours but (I'd, **no**, you) one called. She could hear loud (**music**, slump, lawn) and the sound of wild animals (outside, **coming**, better) from the house across the street. (Knew, Bore, **Still**), no one knocked on her door (he, so, **to**) ask her if she was annoyed (went, **with**, can) the noise.

At one o'clock in (**the**, but, them) morning, the phone rang. The voice (had, are, **on**) the other end had an Irish (nobody, **accent**, selects).

"Hi. I'm you're new neighbor," said (up, saw, **the**) voice. "I'm having a party. All (seed, hate, **your**) friends are already here. Would you (even, **like**, when) to join us?"

Thelma's new neighbor was mighty odd. She knew her neighbor was strange (**surf, tail, from**) the moment the moving van pulled (**fish, into, real**) the driveway of the house across (**eye, at, the**) street. She knew he was different (**seen, small, just**) as soon as she saw him (**walk, shell, pop**) up to the front door of (**saw, his, out**) new house.

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"Hi. I'm you're new neighbor," said (**up, saw, the**) voice. "I'm having a party. All (**seed, hate, your**) friends are already here. Would you (**even, like, when**) to join us?"

Answer Key

Theodore was an actor in movies. He was not a big movie (**star**, lawn, very), but he did like to act. (Can, Tall, **He**) was called an extra. You see (paper, **extras**, blocks) acting in movies all the time. (Toys, **Just**, Came) look at all the people walking (far, along, **down**) a street in a movie scene. (Songs, Pride, **Those**) people are all extras. When you (store, beyond, **watch**) a movie and see people standing (angels, **around**, shirt) in the background, you are watching (**the**, list, wash) extras at work.

Theodore's last acting (cup, **job**, stay) was to play a police officer (how, to, **in**) a big Hollywood movie. Before beginning (soup, **work**, hotel), Theodore needed to put on some (sparkle, honey, **makeup**). In the movies, women and girls (learn, along, **aren't**) the only ones who wear makeup. (**A**, It, Am) makeup artist helped put the makeup (low, **on**, by) Theodore's face. The makeup made him (band, lamb, **look**) good on film. Then Theodore had (how, **to**, why) put on a costume. His costume (here, met, **was**) a police officer's uniform. When he (hand, **wore**, tune) the costume, he looked just like (as, to, **a**) real police officer. Even though he (music, **wasn't**, guitar) really a police officer, he sure (**looked**, dance, alive) like one. He even had a (kid, soul, **gun**) in his holster. The gun wasn't (land, **real**, stop) and it couldn't fire bullets, but (did, see, **it**) did look real enough for a (five, **movie**, shoes).

Once Theodore was ready, he had (**to**, day, up) wait. He waited while the cameramen (solo, real, **moved**) their cameras into place. He and (top, **the**, try) other actors waited for the director (me, can, **to**) tell them where to stand and (rock, **what**, along) to do. The director told Theodore (**to**, far, see) jump out of the way when (beat, corn, **the**) star of the movie rode by (man, **him**, star) on a horse. He would have (**to**, I'm, as) be careful so the horse wouldn't (lane, **run**, down) into him.

"Action!" yelled the director. (Best, **The**, All) actors started performing. Theodore did everything (met, step, **the**) director told him to do. He (taste, about, **acted**) like a police officer, and when (pant, **the**, clap) star rode by on the horse, (natural, grandma, **Theodore**) jumped out of the way. Theodore (blue, **was**, road) a good actor, but he wasn't (could, belong, **really**) acting this time. He really did (**need**, who, ink) to jump out of the way (him, me, **of**) the horse! Theodore and the other (dance, **actors**, silly) worked all night to make the (jump, never, **scene**) just right. When the movie was (diamond, **finished**, firehouse), it was fun for Theodore's friends (care, bell, **and**) family to see him on the (fun, **big**, walk) screen.

Theodore was an actor in movies. He was not a big movie **(star, lawn, very)**, but he did like to act. **(Can, Tall, He)** was called an extra. You see **(paper, extras, blocks)** acting in movies all the time. **(Toys, Just, Came)** look at all the people walking **(far, along, down)** a street in a movie scene. **(Songs, Pride, Those)** people are all extras. When you **(store, beyond, watch)** a movie and see people standing **(angels, around, shirt)** in the background, you are watching **(the, list, wash)** extras at work.

Theodore's last acting **(cup, job, stay)** was to play a police officer **(how, to, in)** a big Hollywood movie. Before beginning **(soup, work, hotel)**, Theodore needed to put on some **(sparkle, honey, makeup)**. In the movies, women and girls **(learn, along, aren't)** the only ones who wear makeup. **(A, It, Am)** makeup artist helped put the makeup **(low, on, by)** Theodore's face. The makeup made him **(band, lamb, look)** good on film. Then Theodore had **(how, to, why)** put on a costume. His costume **(here, met, was)** a police officer's uniform. When he **(hand, wore, tune)** the costume, he looked just like **(as, to, a)** real police officer. Even though he **(music, wasn't, guitar)** really a police officer, he sure **(looked, dance, alive)** like one. He even had a **(kid, soul, gun)** in his holster. The gun wasn't **(land, real, stop)** and it couldn't fire bullets, but **(did, see, it)** did look real enough for a **(five, movie, shoes)**.

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Answer Key

There was a cave in the forest not far from Scarlett's house. Weeds and brambles half blocked the (talent, prepare, **opening**) to the cave, but the local (act, **kids**, all) still knew where to find it. (Next, Show, **They**) gathered there on summer evenings before (one, **the**, you) sun set and dared each other (if, as, **to**) go inside. So far, no one (will, **had**, see) been daring enough to enter because (week, last, **they**) knew caves were dark and dangerous.

(**Scarlett**, Roberta, Animals), like the other children, was wary (to, my, **of**) the cave. But the cave also (king, **made**, look) her curious because she'd heard that (man, **bats**, were) often lived inside caves. She'd also (quite, years, **heard**) that pirates sometimes hid their treasure (**in**, was, she) caves. "Maybe," she thought, "there is (master, honked, **pirate**) treasure in the cave in the (special, **forest**, beyond). Maybe if I am brave enough (is, **to**, not) go inside I'll find a treasure (forgot, enjoy, **chest**) waiting for me filled with diamonds (play, why, **and**) rubies."

After many days, Scarlett talked (**her**, foot, bell) best friend, Millie, into helping her (bran, pray, **look**) for treasure in the cave. One (shyness, **evening**, portray) they ventured into the cave with (I, **a**, to) set of lanterns.

"Don't be frightened, (queen, talent, **Millie**)," Scarlett whispered outside the cave. "Don't (back, **you**, clap) want to be rich? There's pirate (jump, when, **gold**) in there, Millie. I just know (upon, create, **there**) is. We could both be wearing (lash, **ruby**, wish) earrings in school tomorrow."

Millie looked (fish, with, **into**) the dark cave. Even though she (too, cold, **was**) holding a lantern, she couldn't make (**out**, my, find) the depth of the cave. She'd (finger, found, **tried**) to talk Scarlett out of this (attention, **adventure**, goldfish), but she knew it was no (now, **use**, swam). When Scarlett had her mind set (in, cry, **to**) do something, she did it.

Millie (followed, ordinary, condition) quietly behind Scarlett as she entered (dip, new, **the**) cave. After walking about a hundred (spots, **feet**, got), Scarlett suddenly wobbled and pitched forward. (Around, Finger, **Millie**) caught her around her waist just (a, **in**, by) time. The girls looked down and (move, but, **saw**) they were standing at the edge (try, no, **of**) a large hole. After that scare, (when, **they**, tried) gave up and headed out of (say, **the**, why) cave. Once they were both safe (**and**, hid, bee) out in the open again, Millie (summer, called, **sighed**) with relief.

"So much for pirate's (condition, **treasure**, bubbles)," Millie said.

"I do like this (watched, inside, **purple**) rock I found, but I don't (give, **think**, more) it was worth the trouble," Scarlett (**replied**, monster, ignored).

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Answer Key

Fifth grade was my favorite year of school. My classmates were intelligent and fun, (was, **and**, who) our teacher, Mrs. Norton, was the (group, loved, **best**) teacher in the school. She made (interesting, paragraph, **everything**) fun. She turned learning into an (immediately, conclusion, **interesting**) activity.

For example, Mrs. Norton created (**something**, suggestion, director) called the Link-Up Program. For (agree, goal, **every**) book a student read, he or (was, **she**, what) was given a paper link to (turn, **add**, day) to the chain of links taped (be, log, **to**) the wall in the hallway. If (**our**, he, paw) class read enough books to stretch (soup, reap, **the**) chain all the way around the (asked, **school**, publish), she would reward us with a (some, **big**, drug) party at the end of the (only, field, **year**). To get us started at a (right, long, **good**) pace, she offered another reward. The (try, **boy**, was) and girl who read the most (movie, **books**, guard) by October first would get to (be, is, **go**) out for lunch with Mrs. Norton. (**Guess**, Sign, Along) what? I read the most books (at, low, **so**) Mrs. Norton took my friend, Kim, (**and**, two, them) me to McDonald's for lunch.

Another (participants, yourselves, **interesting**) reward Mrs. Norton used was called (goal, **the**, for) Chocolate Factory. If a student did (new, **an**, but) outstanding job on his or her (complete, control, **homework**) assignment, he or she would go (if, **to**, or) the Chocolate Factory. The Chocolate Factory (are, **was**, one) a wooden box in the shape (hi, I'm, **of**) a little white house. When you (noise, trucks, **opened**) the house by lifting the roof, (**you**, stay, how) could see all of the chocolate (very, **and**, big) other candy that filled the house. (He, To, **A**) student could use one hand to (their, other, **grab**) as much candy as he or (all, **she**, then) could carry back to his or (came, **her**, try) desk. If any candy fell on (out, more, **the**) floor, it went back into the (knees, **house**, shiny). When I was rewarded with a (beard, blue, **trip**) to the Chocolate Factory, I thought (**about**, tiger, party) how I could get the most (abruptly, **chocolate**, complain). I dipped my hand in like (my, so, **a**) scoop and filled it with candy. (Have, **Then**, Other) I carefully carried the candy back (bay, let, **to**) my desk. I had enough candy (**to**, by, saw) share with my friends.

Mrs. Norton (pair, love, **was**) a very patient and kind teacher. (Tiny, **She**, Sew) always made learning more fun and (introduce, **rewarding**, neighbor). I will never forget my fifth (mighty, drive, **grade**) class and all the fun we (ask, wild, **had**). Thank you Mrs. Norton!

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Answer Key

Traveling is a lot of fun. Sometimes I travel so I can (**learn**, needed, actor), and sometimes I travel just because (a, by, **I**) like to see different things. Sometimes (us, **I**, to) travel just to have fun and (up, go, **to**) keep from being bored. I have (**enjoyed**, makeup, director) traveling to ten different countries. Each (enough, friends, **country**) offered different and exciting things to (him, **see**, lose) and do.

One of the most (conclusion, **interesting**, performing) countries I visited was Japan. Things (fun, big, **are**) very different in Japan than they (did, **are**, like) in the United States of America. (Had, Gun, **For**) example, the Japanese people speak Japanese, (**not**, who, like) English. They eat raw fish and (stall, into, **rice**) instead of pizza. Some people wear (while, place, **robes**) instead of suits. The people in (extra, **Japan**, screen) are very kind and thoughtful, but (to, **it**, do) is hard to understand their customs.

(Horse, Artist, **France**) is another country that was fun (as, **to**, be) visit. The capital of France is (until, **Paris**, kind). Paris is a beautiful city with (farm, were, **many**) interesting things to see. I saw (atop, **the**, our) Eiffel Tower, one of the most (child, teach, **famous**) buildings in the world. One of (**the**, boy, ran) biggest museums in the world is (died, **also**, took) in Paris. It is home to (clean, **some**, fed) of the most famous paintings in (saw, girl, **the**) world. The food is very good (out, **in**, you) France. They make good cheese and (**pastries**, because, dislodged). If you ever have a chance, (said, very, **you**) should go to France.

Ukraine is (voices, **another**, longer) country which is very different from (French, asleep, **America**). The people in Ukraine do not (came, **all**, trap) have cars or new clothes, and (slept, entire, **their**) food is a little different from (**our**, how, near) food. But the people are very (market, couch, **loving**) and fun to know. They are (cream, soup, **very**) kind to visitors from the United (street, **States**, meant). If you go to Ukraine, try (be, **as**, to) much of the good food as (**you**, bone, took) can.

Mexico is also a fun (picking, smartest, **country**) to visit. In Mexico City, you (off, **can**, big) speak Spanish and eat burritos. In (lap, news, **the**) coastal areas, you can swim in (red, **the**, bake) ocean. There are many things to (**buy**, off, are) in Mexico, like blankets, pottery, and (campfire, everyone, **clothing**). Many people from the Unites States (last, **visit**, logs) Mexico because the two countries are (was, **so**, one) close together.

If you ever have (he, **a**, my) chance to travel, do not pass (one, by, **up**) the opportunity. You can have great (beachfront, **adventures**, gathering) in other places.

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Answer Key

When Maggie Ray's mother told her they would visit Mrs. Zale at teatime next Thursday, Maggie Ray said she wasn't going. Mrs. Zale lived in the big (watch, **house**, spent) on the corner of the block. (You, **Mrs.**, Said) Zale's yard was filled with dead (cousin, shriek, **trees**) and surrounded by a tall, spiked (nearby, caught, **fence**). The curtains over Mrs. Zale's windows (**were**, air, away) never pulled open, and her house (lost, fire, **was**) always dark at night. Mrs. Zale (water, **didn't**, filled) seem to have any visitors except (soon, oak, **the**) mailman when he delivered her mail.

(Let, **On**, Him) Wednesday, Maggie Ray cornered the mailman. "(**What's**, Light, Where) Mrs. Zale like? I'm supposed to (by, was, **go**) to her house on Thursday for (thin, **tea**, cool), and I need to know."

The (reached, explain, **mailman**) smiled at Maggie Ray. "Don't tell (of, **me**, no) you've never met Mrs. Zale. You've (**lived**, small, docks) down the street from her for (man's, book, **over**) a year."

"Well I haven't," Maggie (Jim, **Ray**, pool) said. "But I have to meet (ran, **her**, into) tomorrow. Do you think you could (time, waste, **tell**) me a bit about her?"

"Oh, (sat, **no**, how)," the mailman said. "Mrs. Zale will (send, **want**, well) you to be surprised."

When teatime (**rolled**, playing, station) around the next day, Maggie Ray's (around, quickly, **mother**) had to drag Maggie Ray up (fly, **the**, way) sidewalk to Mrs. Zale's front door.

"(Me, So, I) don't want to go in there," (machine, **Maggie**, variety) Ray panted. "Please don't make me (sue, of, **go**) in there."

Before Maggie Ray could (leading, **escape**, among) from her mother's grip, the front (**door**, fold, drive) opened. Maggie Ray's eyes nearly fell (hit, back, **out**) of her head when a monkey (my, sew, **in**) a red velvet vest opened the (trout, **door**, wide). The monkey squawked at Maggie Ray (they, **and**, my) her mother and pointed them toward (open, cool, **the**) dining room.

The dining room held (**another**, season, forget) surprise. A parrot was sitting on (your, of, **the**) chandelier.

"Hello, hello, hello," he said (by, **as**, I) they walked into the room. "Would (guy, **you**, from) like cream or sugar, cream or (sure, bears, **sugar**)?"

Maggie Ray couldn't believe her eyes. (**A**, At, Or) silver tea service was laid out (as, top, **on**) the dining room table. There were (eyes, about, **trays**) of cookies, tarts, candies, and chocolates.

"(Outside, **Welcome**, Beckon), welcome," said the old woman who (thread, **stepped**, nowhere) into the room. She was dressed (as, who, **in**) an emerald ball gown. "I'm so (fond,

Answer Key

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